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Attorneys for Plaintiffs,
UMG RECORDINGS, INC.; VIRGIN
RECORDS AMERICA, INC.; WARNER
BROS. RECORDS INC.; PRIORITY
RECORDS LLC; SONY BMG MUSIC
ENTERTAINMENT; and BMG MUSIC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

UMG RECORDINGS, INC., a Delaware
corporation; VIRGIN RECORDS AMERICA,
INC., a California corporation; WARNER
BROS. RECORDS INC., a Delaware
corporation; PRIORITY RECORDS LLC, a
California limited liability company; SONY
BMG MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT, a Delaware
general partnership; and BMG MUSIC, a New
York general partnership,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JOHN DOE,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 3:07-CV-04871-MEJ

Honorable Maria-Elena James

***EX PARTE APPLICATION TO EXTEND
TIME TO SERVE DEFENDANT AND
[PROPOSED] ORDER***

1 Plaintiffs respectfully request, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules 4(m)
2 and 6(b)(1)(A), that the Court grant an additional 90 days to serve Defendant with the Summons and
3 Complaint. As further explained below, while Plaintiffs believe they have discovered the “John
4 Doe” defendant’s true identity, they have so far refrained from filing a First Amended Complaint
5 naming her as an individual defendant to allow time for settlement negotiations, and Plaintiffs
6 request additional time to effectuate service once the First Amended Complaint is filed. In support
7 of their request, Plaintiffs state as follows:

8 1. The current deadline for service of process is January 18, 2008. The initial
9 case management conference is set for March 27, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., as continued by the Court’s
10 Order of December 17, 2007 upon Plaintiffs’ request.

11 2. Plaintiffs filed their Complaint for Copyright Infringement against Defendant
12 John Doe (“Defendant”) on September 20, 2007. Plaintiffs did not have sufficient identifying
13 information to name Defendant in the Complaint, but were able to identify Defendant by the Internet
14 Protocol address assigned to Defendant by Defendant’s Internet Service Provider (“ISP”) – here,
15 University of San Francisco.

16 3. In order to determine Defendant’s true name and identity, Plaintiffs filed their
17 *Ex Parte* Application for Leave to Take Immediate Discovery on September 20, 2007, requesting
18 that the Court enter an Order allowing Plaintiffs to serve a Rule 45 subpoena on the ISP.

19 4. The Court entered an Order for Leave to take Immediate Discovery on
20 October 4, 2007, which was promptly served upon the ISP along with a Rule 45 subpoena. On
21 November 30, 2007, the ISP responded to Plaintiffs’ subpoena, providing Plaintiffs with identifying
22 information including Defendant’s name, telephone number, and address.

23 5. Upon receipt of this information from the ISP, Plaintiffs sent a letter to
24 Defendant notifying her of their claims for copyright infringement and encouraging her to make
25 contact to attempt to amicably resolve this matter. Defendant contacted Plaintiffs one time where
26 settlement discussions took place. Subsequent attempts by Plaintiffs to reach Defendant have been
27 unsuccessful, although this may have been in part because of the University holiday vacation.
28

1 6. Plaintiffs wish to give Defendant a reasonable period of time to conclude
2 negotiations aimed at resolving this case and should they fail to do so are prepared to amend the
3 complaint to name her as an individual defendant.

4 7. Given the circumstances of this case, Plaintiffs respectfully request an
5 additional 90 days to effectuate service.

6 8. Plaintiffs submit that their efforts to give written notice to Defendant of their
7 claim and subsequent efforts to contact Defendant and resolve the case without further litigation
8 constitute “good cause” under Rule 4(m) for any delay in effectuating service. *See Ritts v. Dealers*
9 *Alliance Credit Corp.*, 989 F. Supp. 1475, 1479 (N.D. Ga. 1997) (stating good cause standard for
10 service extensions). This Court has discretion to enlarge the time to serve even where there is no
11 good cause shown. *Henderson v. United States*, 517 U.S. 654, 658 n. 5 (1996). Here, Plaintiffs are
12 acting in good faith to try to settle this matter with Defendant without potentially damaging her
13 credit by naming her in the suit as well as attempting to avoid the cost of further litigation for both
14 parties. Moreover, unlike a traditional case in which the defendant is known by name and efforts to
15 serve can begin immediately after filing the complaint, in this case Plaintiffs first had to obtain the
16 identity of the defendant through the subpoena to the ISP.

17 9. Because the copyright infringements here occurred in 2007, the three-year
18 limitations period for these claims has not expired. *See* 17 U.S.C. § 507(b) (2000). There can thus
19 be no prejudice to the Defendant from any delay in serving the Complaint.

20 10. Plaintiffs will provide the Defendant with a copy of this request and any Order
21 concerning this request when service of process occurs.

22
23 Dated: January 15, 2008

HOLME ROBERTS & OWEN LLP

24
25 By: /s/ Matthew Franklin Jaksa
26 MATTHEW FRANKLIN JAKSA
27 Attorney for Plaintiffs
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ORDER

Good cause having been shown:

IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules 4(m) and 6(b)(1), Plaintiffs' time to serve the Summons and Complaint on Defendant be extended to April 17, 2008.

Dated: _____

By: _____
Honorable Maria-Elena James
United States Magistrate Judge